

6TH DISTRICT UPDATE

Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall

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Fearey's First Edition

The issue of Open Government has been on the minds of many of you for quite some time now. The issue seems to have come even more to the forefront recently with the issue of "Consent Agenda Creep" in our regularly scheduled workshop sessions. That is the reason that, at the end of our April 4 regular City Council meeting, I requested that we discuss the workshop consent agenda. After discussing it at length, the Council directed staff to consolidate our recommendations and bring them back to us on April 11 for official action. The new resolution addresses things such as pulling an item for further discussion (automatically deferred to the next Council meeting), pulling an item for conflict of interest (OK to go ahead and vote on at workshop) and pulling an item for questions (may or may not be deferred depending on depth of question).

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For the five years that I have been on City Council, I have asked to have our workshop sessions recorded and played on channel 7 (they cannot be shown live due to the unavailability of equipment in the board room). I have never, however, had the support of enough other Council Members to get this changed. The good news is that more council members now agree with this and staff has been directed to look into the cost of video taping our sessions and also visiting with the School District about how they tape their off site meetings for broadcast. In the interim, any power point presentations that are made to the Council in workshop sessions are available on the City's website at: (<http://www.wichita.gov/Government/MinutesAndAgendas/CityCouncil/2006WorkshopAgendas.htm>). Please take a look at them and then contact either the appropriate city staff or me if you have any questions or concerns about what you saw.

There has also been some concern on the part of the public regarding the Council's Friday "agenda review." These meetings are open to the press and to the public. The press has not been attending regularly because (I think) the meetings are very straight-forward with Council Members just asking questions about items to be sure they have all the information they need before Tuesday. Council Members have always done agenda reviews but used to do them one or two at a time. Meeting as a group is proving to be more efficient as most of us generally have the same questions. It is also a good time for the Council Member who has been most involved with a given issue (especially true of zoning cases and development projects) to share their knowledge and information with the rest of the Council. Generally this is information that the Council needs to make the best decision but it is information that is more pertinent to a specific area of the city and a specific constituent group than it is to the entire community. It might also be of interest to you to know that the County has done this type of agenda review and meeting with staff for many years.

As always,

Sharon

15th Street Pump Station

The City of Wichita has contracted with **Wildcat Construction Co., Inc.** to construct a sewer lift station and generator building on 15th Street between Ferrell and Jeanette.

Phase I: A new lift station and generator building will be constructed on vacated 15th Street between Jeanette and Ferrell. During this phase, **Ferrell will be closed to through traffic during working hours.** Work will begin April 10, 2006 and last for approximately 4 weeks.

Phase II: During this phase, a new sewer line will be bored under the river. The existing siphon, located in the middle of Ferrell Street, will be abandoned and the pavement replaced. **Beginning about May 8th 2006, the intersection of Ferrell and 15th Street will be closed completely for about 4 weeks.** In the final 3 weeks of the project, inlets will be replaced on Jeanette Street, the generator building finished and landscaping completed.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please feel free to contact **Wildcat's Project Manager, Larry Farrar at 945-9408** or our Project Engineer, Jeff Terhune at 268-4046.

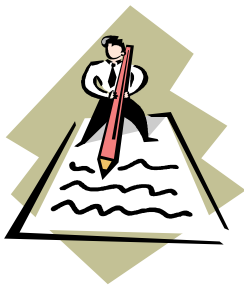
Sedgwick County Opens

New Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF)

The JDF originally opened in 1975 as the Evaluation and Referral Center to serve all juveniles. The facility has approximately 1,200 admissions per year and the average stay is about 21 days. The residents attend in-house public school taking classes that are developmentally appropriate.

The new JDF is 116,200 square feet and will house 108 beds. The new facility will enable juveniles to be housed in Sedgwick County near their families. This will save money in that the juveniles will not have to be transported and housed at facilities in other counties.

National Citizen Survey



The City of Wichita has been working with National Research Center to conduct The National Citizen Survey™ that will be distributed to 3,000 randomly selected Wichita citizens. The citizen survey is a general survey of resident attitude about local quality of life, quality of service delivery, resident activity and resident demography. It does include questions of local policy significance.

A citizen survey provides the vehicle through which the voices of those who are the typical recipients of government services are joined with those who usually chart the direction of local government. The typical resident is no governmental expert, lobbyist or leader. The typical resident has less time to attend public meetings and budget hearings. A citizen survey offers to elected officials and administrators the perspectives on service delivery and community quality that cannot be deduced from records of complaints

or comments at public hearings. The National Citizen Survey™ allows the City of Wichita to conduct a survey of residents and compare those results to those found across America in over 600 other cities.

The 3,000 Wichita citizens found out the week of April 17th that they were selected to complete the survey. Beginning the week of April 24, those recipients received the official survey in the mail.

For others that are interested in participating in the survey voluntarily, it is posted on the City of Wichita's website at www.wichita.gov listed under "Hot Topics." Download either the English version or the Spanish version of the survey. The survey must be printed and filled out in its entirety, only completed surveys will be counted.

Mail the completed survey to the City Manager's Office, 455 N. Main, 13th Floor, Wichita, KS 67202. Fax completed surveys to 268-4519. These surveys will be counted and measured, but the responses will be kept separately from the scientific survey conducted by National Research Center.

Barking Dog Complaints (submitted by the officers of Patrol Beat 49)

With warm weather upon us Barking Dog complaints are very high throughout 49 beat. As a dog owner, you know the companionship, loyalty, love, and fun that your dog adds to your life, but you also must realize your responsibility towards your neighbors. Dog owners are sometimes insensitive to the barking of their own dog. Put yourself in your neighbors' place to see how your dog's habits affect them. Excessive barking can be extremely annoying to neighbors as well as to those who have to live with a noisy dog. The security of knowing you have a real watchdog, as well as enjoying a peaceful and quiet neighborhood, is well worth the effort.

What is a noisy animal?

City of Wichita city code section 6.04.040(d)(6) It is unlawful for any person to: Keep or harbor any animal which, by loud, frequent or habitual barking, howling, yelping or other noise or action, unreasonably disturbs any person or neighborhood within the corporate limits of the city; to effect legal relief, persons so affected directly may sign a complaint in the municipal court.

What is good about a barking dog?

- Alerts owners of potential problems.
- Warns owners of a stranger's presence.
- Alerts neighbors of intruders when your not at home.
- Indicates an animal in distress.

What is bad about a barking dog?

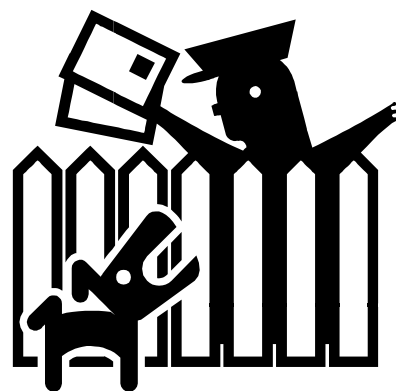
- One dog barking usually starts another dog barking.
- Excessive barking is extremely annoying.
- Excessive noise disturbs those who are ill, shut-in, etc.
- Noisy animals can create neighborhood arguments, resentment, etc.
- Witnesses can file a complaint for this code violation.
- Usually indicates a highly nervous or bored animal.
- Excessive barking can be harmful to dogs.
- Unless stopped, barking may develop into a type of hysteria.

What can you do about your barking dog?

- Determine what causes the dog to bark.
- Dogs are less inclined to bark if a barrier blocks their view.
- Be alert to stop the barking as soon as it starts.
- Train your dog to respond to a command to be quiet.
- Reward your dog whenever it barks for a watchdog reason.
- Don't leave an animal unattended for long periods of time.
- Train your dog to stay quietly within its quarters when you are away.

What can you do about a neighbor's barking dog?

- **First**, try to contact the owner and work out a solution.
- If this does not work, you have the right to call 911 if the dog barking is currently disturbing your peace. If it is not currently happening, leave a message at Patrol North 688-9500, for any member of the 49 Beat Team to contact you. If you desire to prosecute, once a report is made. You will be given a case number. You must contact the detective assigned to your case and go to investigations and sign a Uniform Criminal Complaint under City Code section 06.04.040(d)(6)
- Please remember, officers do not have the authority to go over and make a dog owner stop their dog from barking. It is your peace that is being disturbed. You must be the one to sign a complaint.



2006 WICHITA COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING POLICY

(submitted by Mary Kay Vaughn, Director of Housing and Community Services)

The Comprehensive Housing Policy was created by the Wichita Housing Advisory Board after nearly 18 months of research and evaluation, and adopted by the Wichita City Council on April 4, 2006. The purpose is to guide current and future housing-related decisions made by officials in City Government; it also acknowledges the importance of community partnerships.

The Policy includes an assessment of current conditions in its study of housing from five perspectives: Affordability; Availability; Neighborhood Stability; Leveraging Resources; and Quality. Each section identifies barriers to success, strategies to address the barriers, and 'players' to implement the strategies. Following are sample highlights from each. The full document can be viewed at: www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Housing/

Housing Affordability is considers choice, purchase options, and the cost to build and finance. The number one barrier to housing affordability is financing for low-income homebuyers. Strategies to address this barrier include reducing the cost of financing for low cost housing and providing post-purchase counseling to help new homebuyers adjust to their new responsibilities.

Housing Availability considers the housing needs of special population groups. The number one barrier for this category is lack of housing options for persons with mental disabilities and/or drug and alcohol addictions. Strategies to address this barrier center around creating and expanding housing which includes companion supportive services.

Neighborhood Stability considers housing and neighborhoods. The top barrier in this section is the perception of higher than normal crime rates in certain areas. Strategies include establishing crime reduction programs in neighborhoods, providing better publicity of actual crime statistics and targeting troubled areas with above-baseline services.

The **Leveraging Resources** section recognizes that housing and neighborhood problems will only be solved when resources are maximized. The top barrier in this section is insufficient resources to initiate substantial housing development or redevelopment projects. Strategies include helping CHDOs expand their loan capacity and establishing a Housing Trust Fund.

Housing Quality was reviewed from housing and neighborhood perspectives, with an emphasis on housing that is desirable, functional, safe and energy efficient. The greatest barrier was identified as inadequate amount of staff for code enforcement (since code violations have a direct impact on neighborhood quality). The primary strategy is to use revenue from fines, permit fees and taxes to fund additional positions.

Implementation of the Comprehensive Housing Policy will be guided by the Housing Advisory Board which will at its next meeting (April 19, 2006), start development an action plan. One action that is already underway is development of a Housing Trust Fund model.



Aviation Training School Planned for Jabara Campus

On March 1, 2005, the City Council took action to adopt a resolution authorizing conceptual design of a proposed aviation training facility to be constructed at Jabara Airport. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$36 million. Sedgwick County has expressed its intent to issue the bonds for the facility and will be responsible for covering both the debt service and operating costs. The county anticipates receiving funding support from tuition, fees, private sector donations and state and federal grants.

On March 21, 2006, the City Council adopted a bonding resolution for an amount not to exceed \$1,600,000 to initiate the project and authorized the necessary signatures contingent upon successfully negotiating a lease agreement between the Airport Authority and Sedgwick County.



New Wichita Sites Added to State Historic Register

The following structures are on the May 13 Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review Agenda for consideration to be added to the Register of Historic Kansas Places. With the exception of the 20th Century Club, they will all be sent to the National Park Service for inclusion in the National Register. The 20th Century Club is not eligible for national listing because artificial siding has been added to the exterior. Adding these building to the registers will make them eligible for grants and tax incentives to help with their rehabilitation.

- Comley House at 1137 N. Broadway
- Fresh Air Baby Camp, 1229 W. 11th Street (commonly known as the Girl Scout Little House)
- Bond-Sullivan House, 936 Back Bay Blvd.
- Market Street Cottage, 1144 N. Market
- Adeline Apartments, 1403 N. Emporia
- Stoner Apartment Building, 938-940 N. Market
- Noble House, 1230 N. Waco

I-235 Study Underway

(from the spring issue of the *Metro Messenger*, a newsletter for KDOT partners in the Wichita Metro)

A portion of I-235 is getting a fresh examination. KDOT, the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, and the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization have partnered to begin a new study of the I-235 corridor from US-54/400 (Kellogg) interchange north to the Central Avenue interchange.



The 18-month study will include both interchanges and will identify ways to improve the driving experience along I-235. I-235 was built in 1957 and traffic volumes average 50,000 vehicles per day (and growing at more than 3% per year). A website www.235kelloggcentral.com has been established to provide information on the study as well as receive input from the public.

Rodeo Moratorium



The current city licensing provisions for rodeos fail to address health and safety concerns to livestock and have no provisions regarding the long-term maintenance of such livestock. The city recognizes that there are significant health and safety concerns to participants, spectators and adjacent neighborhoods when these activities remain unregulated. The activities produce noise, odors and other nuisances that are incompatible to adjacent property owners. Rodeos are also not currently defined or regulated through the Wichita-Sedgwick County Unified Zoning Code for the city.

Because of this, the City Council at its May 2 meeting passed a moratorium on the issuance of rodeo licenses until November 2, 2006. Staff was instructed to proceed with processing licenses that have already been filed with the City Clerk prior to the issuance of the moratorium for events occurring before July 9, 2006. No rodeo event shall be approved after July 9, 2006. This will give staff time to develop licensing procedure and zoning requirements and conditions in order to regulate rodeos.

THANK YOU



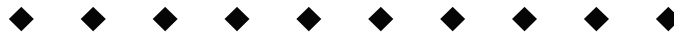
In Appreciation for all you do!

Sunday, April 30th, marked the first appreciation luncheon offered by Council Member Sharon Fearey for the 6th District neighborhoods. The neighborhood board members were invited with seven of the sixteen associations represented. Certificate recognitions of neighborhood activities, projects and accomplishments were presented including a sign with the name of all associations to be posted in the Neighborhood City Hall in thanks for all they do to improve quality of life.

Cooking was done by Sharon Fearey and husband along with neighbors providing side dishes. Cargill Meat Solutions, strong community supporters, provided the meat for the event.

The Wichita Park department provided small plants as decorations and gifts for all attendees and the sign for the Neighborhood City Hall was donated by City Blue Print.

A good time was had by all.



21st Street Overpass Advisory Committee

The committee continues to meet and has looked at three options:

The Existing 21st Street Option is the one that was originally presented as part of the 21st Street Plan. It would span the tracks between I-135 and the Broadway RR tracks. A road would be built beside and under the overpass to provide access to the area businesses. The major concerns about this plan are the cost, the difficult access for local businesses, and the fact that it does not span the Broadway RR tracks.

The South Option is one that was proposed by a committee member. It is the only option that spans all of the RR tracks including those at Broadway. The major concern about this plan are the route it takes requiring people to go south just west of I-135 and exiting the overpass south of 21st Street. The committee felt that current businesses in this area of 21st Street would be completely bypassed and that traffic would not be easily directed back to the 21st area Broadway to Amidon thus not accomplishing some of the original goals.

The North Option would take the traffic over all of the RR tracks except those at Broadway. This is the plan that the committee felt was the best. It allows access to the area businesses either by continuing across the tracks directly on 21st Street or by taking the overpass over the tracks and then backtracking to the business. This allows the most opportunity to not be stopped by trains. This plan needs the least right-of-way acquisition and has the lowest cost.

The consultants will do some additional work on the plans and come back to the committee with more details.